



13-21 Crown Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 2SN

Addendum to Ecology Report

March 2018

on behalf of Thomas Homes

Client	Thomas Homes
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Report Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Site Description	1
1.2	Aims	1
2	Methodology.....	1
3	Results.....	1
3.1	Habitats	1
3.2	Species	2
4	Impact Assessment.....	2
5	Recommendations	2
6	References.....	2
7	Appendix 1. Photographs	3
8	Appendix 2. Site Location Plans	4

1 Introduction

Windrush Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Thomas Homes to undertake a series of surveys at a site off Crown Street, Reading, Berkshire (approximate Ordnance Survey grid reference SU 718 728) in 2015 and in 2017.

This addendum presents the results of an Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey of a previously unsurveyed piece of land off Newark Street (hereafter referred to as 'the site') located directly to west of the original site and is required as this new area will be integrated into the broader development.

This document should be read in conjunction with the previous ecology report titled "13-21 Crown Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 2SN - Updated Ecology Report" that was produced in May 2017.

1.1 Site Description

The site is located to the south-east of the junction between Crown Street and Newark Street, close to the urban centre of the large town of Reading, Berkshire.

The site comprises a rectangular area of hard-standing with a footprint of approximately 370m². Boundaries are marked by a combination of closeboard fence and brick walls.

The Ordnance Survey grid reference for the site is SU 7182 7285.

1.2 Aims

The aims of this study are to describe and evaluate the habitats present within the site and to assess the potential for the site to support protected and notable species. The addendum discusses the likely impacts of the proposed development on the ecology of the site, on valued habitats and on protected/notable species.

The study also makes recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures and habitat enhancement with regard to habitats and species. The need for further ecological survey work is discussed in light of the impact assessment.

2 Methodology

An extended Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken by Robbie Birkett *MSci* on the 28th February 2018. The weather during the survey was sub-zero (-2°C), sunny (10% cloud), with a light breeze (Beaufort Scale 3). A thin dusting of snow was present on the ground.

A walkover of the site was conducted, and a description of the habitats present was prepared using standard Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodology (JNCC 2010). Target notes were also prepared on features of particular ecological interest and an assessment was made of the site's potential to support protected and notable species (such as species listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act).

3 Results

3.1 Habitats

The site comprises an area of hard-standing, with no other habitats present. The interior has been cleared in the recent past and a layer of compacted hard-core has been laid. This hard-core covers the vast majority of space present. No colonising vegetation was identified within the hard-core.

Some sparse ruderal vegetation is present around the peripheries of the site, with species including dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, broadleaved dock *Rumex*

obtusifolius, cleavers *Galium aparine* and common nettle *Urtica dioica*. All of this ruderal vegetation is located in very close proximity to the boundary fences and walls and is of a short height.

The hard-standing and sparse ruderal vegetation are of negligible ecological value.

3.2 Species

No evidence of any notable or protected species was identified. The hard-standing and ruderal habitats present are considered to be unsuitable for notable or protected species.

The tall fences and walls which surround the site are likely to exclude mammals such as foxes *Vulpes vulpes* and badgers *Meles meles* from accessing the site, and there is no suitable habitat for these species within the site.

The possibility of black redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* frequenting the site was taken into consideration as individuals have been recorded within the urban centre of Reading. This species can inhabit urban wasteland and brownfield sites and is listed as 'Red' on Birds of Conservation Concern list.

However, the habitats present within the site are considered to be unsuitable for foraging black redstarts. The species requires brownfield sites with a diverse habitat mosaic to include ephemeral vegetation, varied topography and varied substrate to create suitable foraging habitats. The compacted and flat hard-core of the site, and the lack of any significant vegetation, make the site unsuitable for black redstarts.

4 Impact Assessment

There are no foreseeable impacts on habitats, protected/notable species or wider ecology as a result of the proposed development of the site.

5 Recommendations

No further surveys are considered necessary.

No compensation or mitigation is considered necessary in relation to the site, as there are no predicted impacts on habitats or species of ecological value.

6 References

JNCC, 2010. *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey - a technique for environmental audit*. JNCC First published 1990; reprinted in 2010.

7 Appendix 1. Photographs



Photograph 1. The site viewed from the north-west.



Photograph 2. The site viewed from the south-east.

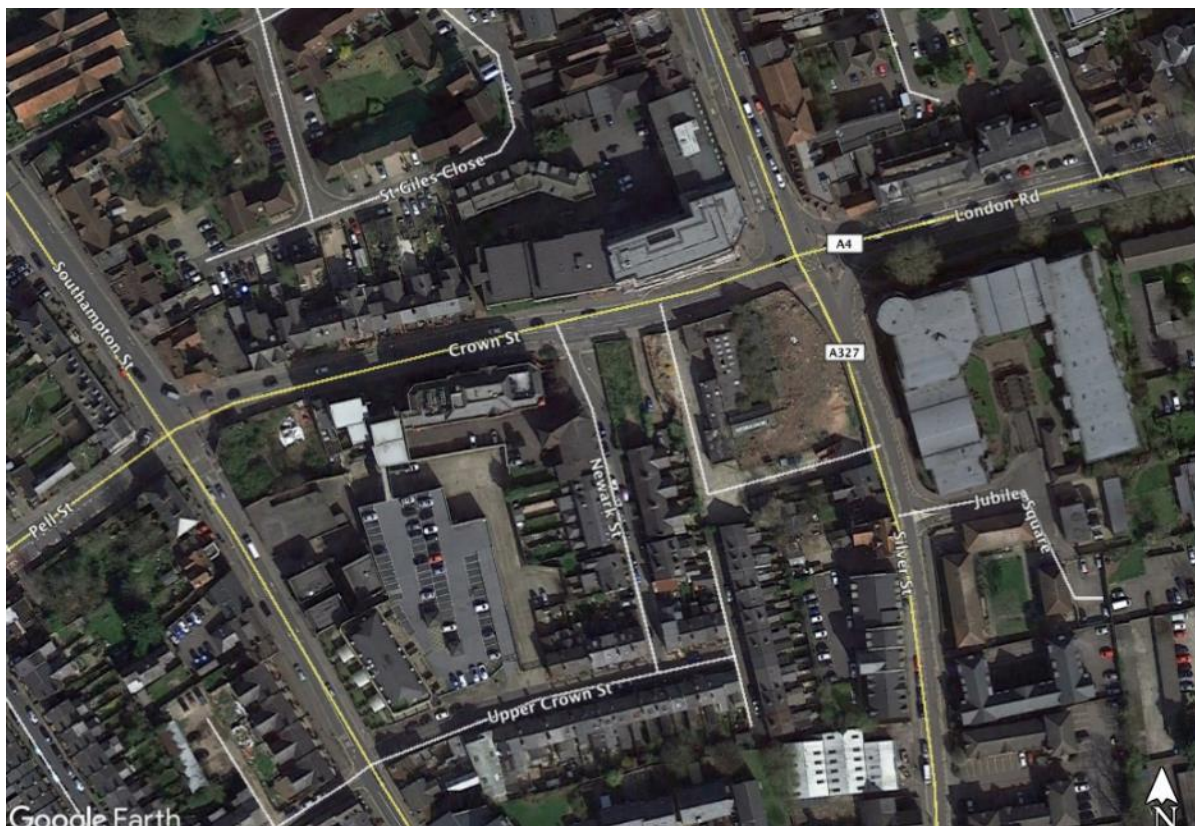


Photograph 3. Hard-standing.



Photograph 4. Marginal ruderals.

8 Appendix 2. Site Location Plans



Aerial photograph showing the location of 31 Mill Lane, Chalgrove (outlined in red) Source: Google Earth



Ordnance Survey map showing the location of the site (indicated by the red dot) within the local area. Source: <https://www.bing.com/maps>